

(1) International Application Number: PCT/US98/17587

(2) International Filing Date: 25 August 1998 (25.08.98)

(3) Priority Date: 08/9/1997, 28 August 1997 (28.08.97) US

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(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

Title: CELL COMBINATION TO UTILIZE AVAILABLE SWITCH BANDWIDTH

Abstract

An apparatus and method for combining the combination of multistreams of data cells into a thread. By enabling plural ports of an intermediate device to access a single parallel output of the device, plural network switch elements share a single thread through a switch fabric. For example, the method and apparatus interleaving the relatively low bandwidth cell outputs of two ATM switch central control processors (202A, 202B) onto a single thread (212) routed through an integrated switch fabric (204). Certain these cells are received from the switch fabric at a parallel input of the intermediate device, then routed to plural serial output ports. The output of cells provided to the plural ports prevents exceeding the thread bandwidth.

